

## **MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM**

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was federally enacted in 1997 under Title XXI of the Social Security Act. The purpose of SCHIP is to provide funds to States to enable them to initiate and expand sources of health coverage for uninsured, low-income children.

In 1998, the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly enacted the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), which started on July 1, 1998. MCHP provides comprehensive health benefits to low-income children whose families would not otherwise be able to afford health insurance for their children. Individuals eligible for MCHP, are served through the HealthChoice Program and are enrolled in one of the managed care organizations.

During FY 2001, children from birth through age 18 with family incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible for MCHP. Pregnant women of any age with incomes up to 200% of poverty are also eligible for MCHP. Children with current health insurance coverage are not eligible for the program. During fiscal year 2001, the average MCHP enrollment was about 85,000 children. (MCHP eligibles are included in all tables in this report).